



ROSEVILLE LEGEND

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Dalrymple's D & D Pottery

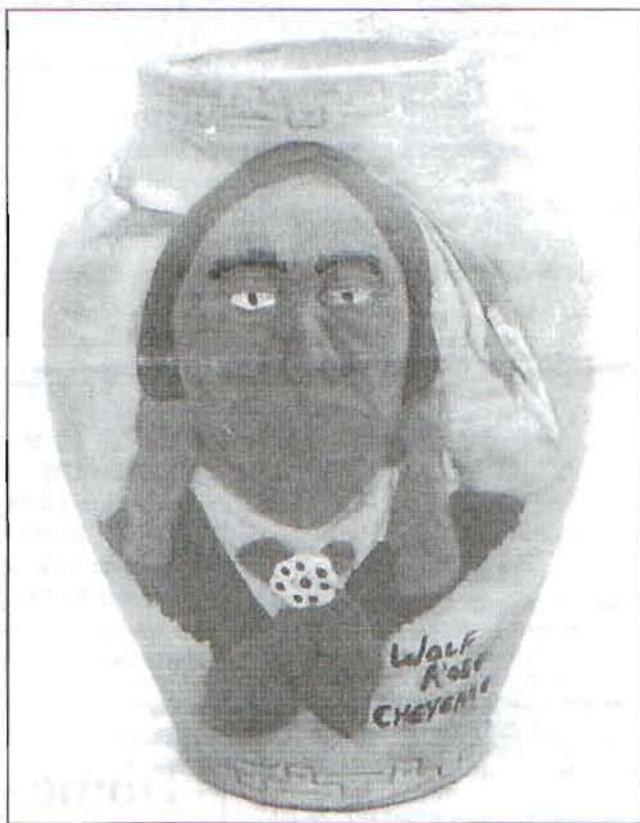
By James L. Murphy

Roseville's little-known D & D Pottery was a family-operated concern that combined years of practical pottery experience on both sides of the family.

Clarence Dalrymple's father, Archie (1885-1946), and grandfather Hugh (1859-19) worked as coal miners after the family emigrated from Scotland in 1891 or 1892, first at Carbon Hill in Hocking County and then at Crooksville; but by 1920 Archie's sister Ellen (Nellie) was working in a Crooksville pottery and by 1930 Archie's older sons, Hugh and William, were both working in a Crooksville tile plant.

It was Archie's son Clarence M. (1914-1996) however who, after years of employment at the Crooksville China Company and at Nelson McCoy, where his wife, Glenna (1925-1983) also worked, started the D & D Pottery at their home in Roseville. According to son Roger, it was actually Glenna's idea to start their own pottery when Clarence stopped working as a die maker at McCoy in 1977. Using an electric kiln and making more than one hundred of their own molds and dies, the family, including sons Roger and Kevin, manufactured primarily florist ware for about five or six years at their home at 34 East Athens Road in Roseville. Much of the ware was sold through Krogers and florists in the Columbus area. One major purchaser was a woman in Michigan who made macramé holders for the hanging baskets produced by D & D Pottery.

The pottery was low-fired earthenware with a white, non-porous interior, while the matt exterior was brushed with a brown-to-tan stain and then hand-painted. Lois Lehner, in the only published account of this small pottery, illustrates two paper



An 8 inch high vase with molded portrait of Chief Wolf Robe is clearly based on a 1909 photograph of the Cheyenne Indian. [Photo courtesy of James L. Murphy.]

labels that were used, although most pieces were also marked with a black ink stamp giving the pottery's name and address. (The house still stands on the north side of Athens Road, just east of the Roseville Middle School).

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Lehner notes that several old **Weller** molds were utilized by the fledgling pottery, although there was no attempt at deception. For that matter **Weller** was long out of business by the time the **D & D Pottery** operated. The brushed tan exterior and brightly painted designs are distinctive, and most pieces were original in design though sometimes reminiscent of shapes and used by other Zanesville art potteries.

They produced a small driftwood-shaped vase or planter that is a bit reminiscent of **Gonder**, but is distinctive. An 8 inch high vase with molded portrait of Chief Wolf Robe is clearly based on a 1909 photograph of the Cheyenne Indian. There may be a **Roseville** or **Weller** or **Rookwood** standard glaze vase with a hand-painted portrait of this Indian but not in the molded, three-dimensional style of **D & D's** example.

Production at the **D & D Pottery** ended shortly after **Glenna Dalrymple's** death in 1983. **Clarence Dalrymple** passed away in 1996, although **Lehner** mistakenly places **Clarence's** death in October, 1981, fifteen years before his actual demise. Low production and the pottery's short life explains the relative scarcity of **D & D** pieces as well as the degree to which it has been forgotten today—a recent visit to the **National Ceramic Museum and Heritage Center** failed to spot a "pottery signpost" for **D & D Pottery** among those lining the entrance to the center—but the family legacy continues as sons **Roger** and **Kevin** both remain actively free-lancing die and mold creations for local potteries.



A basket weave vase produced by D & D Pottery.
[Photo courtesy of James L. Murphy.]



Above, a small driftwood-shaped vase or planter that is a bit reminiscent of **Gonder**. Middle, black ink stamp with **D & D Pottery** name and address. Below, a Wild Rose Vase. [Photos courtesy of James L. Murphy.]



Passages

Mabel Margaret Deaver, 98, passed away went on July 9, 2006. **Mabel**, along with her sister **Helen Fleming**, recalled memories of growing up in **Roseville** in the **Roseville Stories** feature of the Fall 2005 newsletter. She worked for 48 years at area potteries and was a lifelong member of **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**.